



SOUTH MARSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

In this issue:

- Around the World Day
- Quiz night
- Netball match results
- Trust Update
- Message from the Head Teachers
- Attendance
- Childs Mental Health Week
- Safeguarding
- Dates for your diary

Around the World Day

The children had a fantastic Geography Day going on holiday to somewhere special. They checked in at Passport Control, had airplane food and flew to amazing destinations.



Netball Match

Our First match of 2024! All played really well and although we didn't win, team spirit was high and great to see them really encouraging and supporting each other on and off the court.



Trust Update

Following the recent letter from Nigel Daniel, DBAT Chair of Trustees, announcing the Trustee decision to transfer all the schools in DBAT to new multi academy trusts, we would like to offer you some reassurances:

Our school is working closely with DBAT Trustees and our Academy Council to ensure that the individual character of our school is considered in any decision making.

DBAT are working closely with the Department for Education.

DBAT will communicate regularly with any updates.

We do not anticipate staff changes due to the transfer.

New trusts have not yet been identified.

If you would like to discuss anything further to do with this ongoing matter, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Hendry or Mr Miller.

Quiz Night

Friday 1st March
 Only £3 per person—Max 6 People per team
 Bring a £1 for the coin toss
 Email FSMPS@outlook.com to register your team



Message from the Head Teacher

A warm welcome to this week's newsletter. At the end of what has been a very busy term I am sure you are looking forward to the half term break next week.

It has been wonderful to be back in school and I must thank you for the warm welcome back I have received. During my phased return, I have spent time with Mr Miller to ensure a thorough handover and to catch up on all of the wonderful things that have been happening in school in my absence. I have also been

touched by the welcome back I have received from the children.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a public thank you to all of the staff for their continued hard work and commitment and thank Mr Miller and Mrs Mitchell as Acting Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead respectively, for their excellent leadership and ensuring the school continues to focus on our priorities during my absence.

As the term ends, we are saying a fond farewell and thank you to Mrs Campbell who has worked incredibly hard to support our Year 5 and 6 pupils. We are grateful for her dedication to the class and our school and her tireless hard work and effort. I am sure we will see Mrs Campbell in school again in the future but for now, we say thank a big thank you and farewell.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you a very relaxing half term break and we look forward to the children returning on Monday 19th February.
 Very best wishes,

Mrs Hendry

Attendance

As you are aware attendance is a priority at South Marston Primary School, currently our whole school attendance is 95.00% this is above the National Average of 93.8%. We currently have 15 children on 100% attendance, well done! Please remember family holidays during Term Time are unauthorised, for more information and support with attendance please see our website www.smcea.org.uk. If you need to make request for absence please email the office on admin@southmarstonprimary.co.uk.

Children's Mental Health Week Information

My VOICE MATTERS

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour... and act on their views.

PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school – because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

For primary children: bit.ly/3FpCGi8

For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK

Safeguarding

The information below is from Swindon Connect (formerly MASH) which may be of use over the February half term break. Please note that school staff will have their 'out of office' notifications on and may not see messages that are urgent in this way. Please contact Swindon Connect (formerly MASH) if you are concerned about a child.

If you think that a child is in immediate danger, please ring 999 and speak to the police.

If are concerned about a child or young person: E-mail: contactswindon@swindon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01793 464646 (during normal office hours which are 8.30am to 4.40pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.00pm Friday)

The Emergency Duty Service (EDS) is available outside office hours on 01793 436699

Dates for your diary

- Half Term**
- 12th-16 February 2024 - Back to school on Monday 19th February
- Netball Matches - All welcome to come along and support**
- Friday 8th March - Home match after school
- School Nurse Health Check**
- Tuesday 27th February - Year 6 and Reception Only
- Provisional Date for Parents Evening—Class 4 to be confirmed**
- 27th and 28th February 2024 for Class 1, 2 and 3
- Glamrose Cake Sale at School**
- 1st March 2024
- World Book Day**
- 7th March 2024 - more details to follow
- Easter Break**
- School closed on 28th March (TD Day) - 12th April—Back in school on Monday 15 April 2024